Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017273
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: S/S:SVALERGA
APPROVED BY: S/S:SVALERGA
----------103485 220014Z /64
O 212348Z JAN 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017273

NODIS
WHITE HOUSE FOR Z BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT PARIS 02022 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 21 JAN 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T PA
RIS 02022

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3
TAGS: IT, FR, US
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SITUATION -- CONSULTATIONS WITH
ALLIES

1. I FOLLOWED UP MY CONVERSATION WITH ELYSEE SECRETARY-GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET (SEPTEL) WITH A MEETING WITH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU JANUARY 20. FOLLOWING MY DESCRIPTION OF OUR CONCERNS (PER STATE
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8959), SOUTOU CONFIRMED THAT ITALIAN SITUATION WAS SERIOUSLY WORRYING TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT, IF THE PCI ENTERED GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE FRENCH ELECTIONS IN MARCH, THERE COULD BE A PROFOUND EFFECT IN FRANCE. HE BLAMED MORO FOR BELIEVING THERE COULD BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT THE PCI.

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2. HOWEVER, SOUTOU WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT THE FRENCH COULD DO. HE SAID THAT FRENCH POLITICIANS SUCH AS SENATE PRESIDENT POHER AND CENTRIST LEADER LECANUET HAD TAIKED TO DC LEADERS ABOUT FRENCH CONCERNS AND THE NEED TO KEEP THE PCI OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. BUT SOUTOU FELT THAT IF THE FRENCH SPOKE OUT, THE ITALIANS WOULD SIMPLY REJECT THEIR ADVICE. THE BEST SOLUTION IS FOR THE LEFT TO SUFFER A DEFEAT IN FRANCE; THAT COULD HAVE AN EXEMPLARY EFFECT IN ITALY.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE US STATEMENT ON ITALY, SOUTOU FELT THAT IT HAD SERVED A PURPOSE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO LET THE ITALIANS KNOW WHERE IT STOOD. HE ADDED THAT "ITALY IS ITALY" -- WHICH I TAKE TO MEAN THAT HE DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME MEDICINE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR FRANCE. AS FOR THE WAVE OF CRITICISM IN FRANCE ABOUT THE US STATEMENT, SOUTOU -- IN CONTRAST TO MORE AGITATED QUAI WORKING LEVELS -- REFERRED ME TO THE QUAI'S APPRECIABLY LESS CRITICAL REACTION AND SAID NOT TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE REST.
GAMMON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER
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# Message Attributes

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**Control Number:** n/a
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**Draft Date:** 21 jan 1978
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**To:** WHITE HOUSE
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